

Excerpts from story in Buffalo Evening News, August 29, 1962

Banner Head: RUSS TROOPS SET UP MISSILES IN CUBA

.....
Soviet Force Estimated At 30,000

By Nat S. Finney

"Washington, Aug. 29--There can no longer be the slightest serious question that a menacing Soviet buildup is occurring in Cuba, and that this buildup includes Russian troops manning at least two types of missiles.

"This fact--and it is now a hard intelligence fact--plus the fact that what is happening was not foreseen by American intelligence a month ago, makes acknowledgment of its occurrence a wrenching experience for the Kennedy Administration.

....(3 paragraphs skipped)....

"Soviet torpedo boats, suitable for the support of Central American insurgents, were unloaded Aug. 2 and 3 at Mariel, Cuba, and are now moored at La Base, near Mariel. The Soviet ships that brought the torpedo boats disembarked 1200 Soviet troops but the precise character of this force had not been ascertained at the beginning of this week.

"There is no question whatever about the identity of the ships that have been arriving in Cuba, and the expression 'bloc ships' is not used by American intelligence. Names of the vessels have been learned as have their burden and characteristics.

....(7 paragraphs skipped)....

"It was not until reports had accumulated about a landing Aug. 2 and 3 at the former Marante docks at Mariel and could be checked and double checked that American intelligence had to accept as a fact that Soviet troops were arriving in Cuba in force and that a new pattern had developed.

....(1 paragraph skipped)....

A contingent of 1200 Soviet troops wearing fatigue uniforms disembarked from these ships and helped unload them under strict military discipline....(cumulated number of Soviet troops put at 30,000)....This drawing, collated with other intelligence reports, has convinced American intelligence that the Russians are mounting a missile potential in Cuba" (with a range sufficient to include Miami and Cape Canaveral).

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